

## News briefs

### Memorial service

A memorial service for Bitburg High School teacher Bob Todd is Monday at 4:30 p.m. in the Bitburg Annex Chapel.

Todd, a 6-year BHS and long-time Department of Defense teacher, died Nov. 7 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

### Anthrax Web site

U.S. Air Forces in Europe now has an anthrax information page, which is linked to the USAFE public Web site at [www.usafe.af.mil/anthrax/home.html](http://www.usafe.af.mil/anthrax/home.html).

### Finance office closure

The wing finance office closes Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. for an official function.

For emergencies, call 0160-8809937.

### Passport procedures

The U.S. Consulate General in Frankfurt urges all military ID card holders on bases in Germany to apply for passports via the military courier service through the base military personnel flight. Officials said the military courier service, which operates between Spangdahlem Air Base and the Consulate, is faster than ever. Turn-around time to get passports is no more than two to three weeks.

For more information, call Rita Merkes at 452-6813.

### Holiday hours

Most Army and Air Force Exchange Service locations around Spangdahlem Air Base and the Bitburg Annex close Thursday for Thanksgiving.

People can still shop at the BXtra on Spangdahlem AB and the shoppette on the Bitburg Annex from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. People may also use the gas stations at both locations from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### AFN Eifel outage

The local American Forces Network Eifel TV channel will be out Tuesday from noon to 4 p.m. for residents of Spangdahlem Air Base housing, Speicher government-leased housing and local residents who receive the channel by antenna.

The outage is required so maintenance can be performed on the transmitter tower.

### Remembrance Day

The Bitburg Elementary School Parent

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# Eifel Times

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Nov. 16, 2001



Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook

### Phone home

Senior Airman Joseph Andrews, satellite communications technician, shows Senior Airman Brian Yannarelli, tech controller, how to use the Lightweight Multiband Satellite Terminal during a local communications exercise conducted at Spangdahlem Air Base. The LMST communication provides voice and network connections to troops deployed in the field. Andrews and Yannarelli are both assigned to the 52nd Communications Squadron.

## AAFES commander visits Eifel BXs

By Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Even Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities in Europe feel the impact "across the board" of the U.S.-led war on terrorism, according to its commander.

"It's impacting all our operations worldwide," Air Force Maj. Gen. C.J. Wax said during a stop at the Bitburg Annex main exchange during a whirlwind tour to the Eifel region Nov. 8.

Anticipating there might be some kind of (logistics or mail) bottleneck during the Christmas season, Wax said AAFES has been working hard to avoid delays in overseas store shipments and mail-order deliveries.

"We're very cognizant of the problems the U.S. Postal Service has in trying to protect their own employees and associates," he said. "We're trying to move things forward into the theater more quickly, but also providing for our customers

here earlier access to items (to ship gifts home)."

Other efforts he cited include starting "Trim the Tree" activities earlier this year and the opening of Toyland in September.

Wax, who visited exchange facilities at about a dozen military locations in Germany during the past week, also said AAFES set foot in four new countries in western Asia to serve customers supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

AAFES established seven field exchanges within a two-week period in October at sites in Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and Uzbekistan, according to Army Maj. Mitch Edgar, AAFES-Europe Region public affairs chief.

"Seventeen AAFES associates have been deployed to the field exchanges in operation now, and 10 more will join this group this month as AAFES establishes three more sites in two

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## Operation Season's Greetings kicks off holidays for Eifel

### Country singers highlight European holiday tour

Compiled from staff reports

The holiday season in the Eifel starts with a bang Wednesday with Operation Season's Greetings, a USO show co-

sponsored by U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Force Reserve Command.

The concert, headlined by country and western band, Ricochet, begins at 4 p.m. in the Skelton Memorial Fitness Center at Spangdahlem Air Base.

Joining the band best known for its single, "Daddy's Money", is country music newcomer Jolie Edwards. The AFRC Jazz Ensemble warms up the afternoon with

vintage and contemporary jazz music.

"Hosting the Operation Season's Greetings show this year is a real honor and pleasure. It is a great opportunity for Team Eifel to take a break before the Thanksgiving holiday and be rewarded with first-class entertainment for all the hard work you do everyday," said Col. Greg Ihde, 52nd Fighter Wing commander. "We are very proud and honored to host country-

music stars Ricochet and Jolie Edwards, as well as the Air Force Reserve Command Jazz Ensemble. I encourage everyone to come out and take advantage of this free special performance and to show your spirit."

This is Ricochet's second time participating in OSG (the first was last year

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Airman 1st Class Michelle S. Roquid

### In remembrance

Larry Barnwell, a member of the local American Legion Post 10775, lays a wreath at the Veteran's Day ceremony Nov. 9 at Spangdahlem Air Base.

## OSG

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when the show traveled to Pacific bases) and something they look forward to again.

"We were proud to participate in last year's Operation Season's Greetings, and it was certainly a memorable experience," said Heath Wright, the group's lead vocalist. "We're really looking forward to going across the Atlantic Ocean this year. We wanted to be a part of sharing the holiday spirit with those who protect our freedoms and who will also miss their holidays at home."

Ricochet describes their music as "high energy vocal country with traditional country instrumentation."

Edwards, whose first album was released in June, is just as excited to entertain the troops this year.

"Even though it means giving up the holidays with my family, I prayed so hard to go on this tour," she said.

"I don't have a million dollars to contribute to the fund-raising efforts, but I can share my God-given talent by entertaining our troops who are fighting for our freedom. I don't consider it a sacrifice on my part since I know the blessing I will receive from performing for, meeting and talking with our men and women in uniform will be far greater than my contribution to this cause. It will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me."

The 14-day show only stops at seven European bases this year, so wing leaders hope everyone gets out to see the show.

## Accidents

By John W. Keeler  
52nd Security Forces Squadron  
Reports and Analysis

Sixteen Team Eifel members experienced vehicle accidents in the past week, two of which were major.

The first accident happened in Speicher near Bahnhofstrasse and the Aldi grocery store. Investigation by the German Polizei found a family member traveling in the direction of Spangdahlem collided with a vehicle that carelessly entered the mainstream. No one was injured, but both vehicles were totaled.

The second accident took place on B-50 near Metterich and Albachmuhle. An investigation by security forces identified an airman traveling in the direction of Spangdahlem lost control, spun around and collided with oncoming traffic. The Bitburg Volunteer Fire Defense was called to the scene to remove the vehicle's roof, allowing her to get out of the car. The collision caused serious injuries and both drivers were transported to the St. Clemens-August Krankenhaus.

The 14 minor accidents involved:

- Three from driving too fast for road conditions.

- Four from improper backing.

- Seven were from inattentive driving.

In addition, five citations were issued.

## Visit

Continued from Page 1

additional countries within that region," Edgar said.

Setting up these sites in so many different countries wasn't easy, according to Wax.

"The logistics train gets really stretched out when you go to some very forward places," he said. "But we're getting pretty good at this. We had one particular commander at one location who said he stepped off the airplane and was shopping in an AAFES exchange 12 hours later."

As the commander of a 53,000-person organization with the function of providing service to soldiers and airmen, Wax relies heavily on his employees in the field. Explaining the purpose of the headquarters is to provide support to the stores in the field so they can provide support to the soldiers and airmen, he said most of the ideas for new programs or new store activities come from associates in the stores, not from the headquarters.

"Even here at Bitburg, there are some great ideas right within this store, some I just saw over in the shoe department that we'll probably deploy to other portions of this theater and maybe worldwide," Wax said.

He was referring to the "Fit to Foot" information program that explains to customers what type of shoe they need depending upon their individual walking pattern, according to Rosie Schmitz, with the area general manager's office. Susan Wright, a former AAFES employee who now works for the 52nd Services Squadron, initiated the program.

Wax also singled out Daniel Critchlow at the Spangdahlem Air Base main exchange. He developed a small stores point-of-sale



Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero

Air Force Maj. Gen. C.J. Wax, Army and Air Force Exchange Service commander, looks to see if a price scanner works properly in the Bitburg Annex main exchange. Wax toured all Spangdahlem Air Base and Bitburg Annex AAFES facilities during his visit Nov. 8.

(computerized cash registers) computer program to repair the registers when the system went down, Schmitz explained. System crashes irritate customers and often took technicians several days to fix. Repair time diminished to mere hours using the recover disc developed by Critchlow.

"It wasn't written in the headquarters. The information technology group didn't write it," Wax said. "It was written by one of our associates out in the field who saw a problem, solved that problem and today it's in every point-of-sale system around the globe."

It's that type of involvement from store

employees that help AAFES achieve its two-part mission to provide service to soldiers and airmen and to generate income from which morale, welfare and recreation programs can operate.

Last year, AAFES returned more than \$461,000 to the Bitburg Annex community and another \$355,620 to the Spangdahlem AB community, Schmitz said.

"But we're very clear about which of those (missions) comes first," Wax said. "That's why we're in four new countries today as far east as Uzbekistan and as far west as the Korean peninsula."



# Wing pastor named USAFE chaplain of year

By Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

U.S. Air Forces in Europe officials recently named Chaplain (Capt.) Herbert Coker outstanding chaplain of the year, the highest honor since there are no Air Force-level chapel service awards.

"Chaplain Coker impressed me when I first arrived in July with all the projects and responsibilities he was capably juggling," said Chaplain (Maj.) Cassandra Thomas. "I appreciate what he and his family bring to our community and commend him as truly deserving of this recognition."

Compassion is the cornerstone of Coker's ministry and shows in his work, according to Chaplain (Col.) Daryl Morton, 52nd Fighter Wing chaplain.

"He's such a good chaplain," Morton said. "He's good with people in so many ways. I think it's because he's so passionate about his ministry. He truly loves and respects all people and is especially good at sensing their needs."

Although Coker has always been passionate about helping people, he didn't always know where he could put his talents to best use. After serving 10 years as an Air Force enlisted communications technician, he couldn't deny his calling to work more closely with people.

Coker developed a keen sensitivity to other's pain as a youth growing up in Sierra Leone, West Africa, he said. There he witnessed families torn apart by unscrupulous politics, civil war and poverty. There, he also felt personal pain and anguish.

"During my season as an enlisted member, I recognized people dealing with painful situations, even though they masked them with their uniforms and rank," he said. "I wanted to be able to do something to ease their pains - offer them a person to talk to - so they could gain peace of mind."

Coker left the service to finish his bachelor's degree in biology in hopes of helping others. But it still wasn't enough. Coker then looked to theology for the answer.

He continued his education, but this time at Oral Roberts University graduate school of theology and missions, in Tulsa, Okla. After graduation, he pastored a small church in Bristow, Okla., located near Tinker Air Force Base.

"I saw military families struggling with life's issues and it tugged at my heart," Coker said. "It was like divine intervention - I called the Air Force recruiting number and



File photo by Staff Sgt. Esperanza Berrios

**Chaplain (Capt.) Herbert Coker, protestant pastor, visits with (from left) Airman 1st Class Robert Palmer, and Senior Airmen Gregory Fentress and Steve Russell, 606th Air Control Squadron, during a routine visit to see how the troops are doing.**

received an immediate answer."

Within a year, Coker was once again serving in the Air Force, but this time as a chaplain.

When people ask about his work, he says he's in the ministry of "hanging around." This type of ministry allows him the opportunity to reach out to people all over the base, he said.

Coker said he continues this ministry today by being available for people when they need to talk to someone. In addition to unit visits, Coker reaches out to the community as a Protestant pastor, chapel program coordinator and a family crisis intervention counselor.

"From young to old, everyone has issues they're working through and I want to empower people to work through their troubles so they can live life to the fullest," he said.

Currently, Coker's biggest concern for Team Eifel is curbing fears and uncertainty resulting from recent events and working on strengthening family relationships.

"We can't stand and wait for the worst to happen," he said. "We need to refocus and live life once again. Perhaps one way is not paying so much attention to the news, but renting a movie, getting a pizza and spending time together as a family."

Continuing his current work in base chapel ministries, Coker said he's also looking to the future with hopes of starting family support groups. The support groups would offer people a safe place they can speak openly and anonymously about the challenges they're facing as a family in a non-threatening environment. Fellow members can share similar experiences and provide additional comfort and assistance.

## Don't cook like a turkey this Thanksgiving

By Inge Lersch  
Assistant chief of fire prevention

Unpleasant as it is, it's as inevitable as death and taxes that somewhere in America this Thanksgiving a holiday cook will be rushed to the hospital with serious burns ... just as it's inevitable that somewhere a house full of revelers will be driven into the cold by a kitchen related fire.

Here are fire-wise tips for cooking and enjoying a Thanksgiving feast safely, if you're among those Americans who celebrate Thanksgiving at home.

Why is Thanksgiving cooking more hazardous than at any other time? First, many cooks never prepare so many courses, in such quantity, as they do this time of year, causing extraordinary demands on cook and kitchen alike. Secondly, at no time of year is the kitchen more crowded — with self-appointed assistant chefs, children, dogs ... you name it. So, all the usual kitchen safety tips become doubly

important as the holiday meal draws near.

■Start making your kitchen fire-safe by declaring it off limits to children. There's enough confusion without risk of tripping over a toddler while carrying a hot saucepan.

■To doubly "kid-proof" the kitchen, cook with all pan handles facing inward and make sure appliance cords don't dangle over the edges of counters. This makes it harder for little hands to pull down pans, bowls and Cuisinarts, showering little bodies with heavy hardware and scalding foodstuffs.

■Now that the children are safe, see to yourself. Away with that frilly holiday garb while you cook — lacy bows and fluffy sleeves could easily touch a burner and ignite. Roll up your sleeves and don a stout apron while you work.

■Be extra careful to use pot holders when carrying pots and pans. Maybe you can rush across the kitchen and put

down a pot of soup before your fingers burn when you've got the kitchen to yourself. The extra time it could take to navigate around your nephew's sisters-in-law could be all it takes to make you burn your fingers — or drop a scalding hot pan of liquid all over somebody.

■Do you know how to deal with a pan fire in stove or oven? Smother the pan with its lid or use a fire extinguisher. Don't carry the pan outside or use water. You'll simply spread the fire.

■Where is your kitchen fire extinguisher? The fire-wise cook permanently mounts it in easy reach — not behind or above the stove where one must reach through flames to get it.

A little common sense can make sure this Thanksgiving remains an occasion for giving thanks and not a tragedy never to be forgotten.

For more information on holiday fire safety, call the fire prevention office at 452-5292 or 452-5297.



In the  
classroom

■Bitburg High School presents, "Welcome to L.A.," an original comedy written by sophomore Robert DeBroeck. Performances take place at 7:30 tonight, 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday in the high school cafeteria. Call 452-9337 for more information.

■The Eifel school board public meeting takes place at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Bitburg Middle School auditorium. Discussions include physical education, teacher-sponsor programs, school bus discipline and more. Officials encourage parents to attend.

■Spangdahlem Elementary School sponsors, "Homework without Tears," at 10 a.m. Nov. 29 in the school information center. School officials invite parents of elementary and middle school students to the event. Call 452-6881 for more information.

■Winners of the Spangdahlem Middle School Red Ribbon Rally are Johnathan Williams, for the best door decoration, and Blake Murray, Breanne Madick, Josh Bamburg and Robert Hernandez for the best anti-drug use cheer.

# Bitburg High School student collects Bears4Kids

## Boy Scout Eagle project started to make a difference

By Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Most 14-year-old high school freshman wouldn't be caught dead holding a teddy bear, let alone 150 of them, but Jose Tovar hopes to collect at least 250 more by Tuesday. The collection isn't his, however.

Tovar, a senior Boy Scout, is gathering the bears for children of Public School No. 89 in New York City, located just a few blocks from, and formerly within view of, the World Trade Center towers. Each bear, along with a comfort letter, will be given to a child who lost a loved one as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack. Tovar has received a direct request for at least 275 bears from the school principal.

He got the idea for the teddy bear drive when searching for a Boy Scout Eagle project idea. He wanted to do something that would make a real difference - something to help the people affected by the tragedies. He shared his ideas with his father, a Bitburg Elementary School supply clerk, who heard about the Bears4Kids program through the school nurse.

Bears4Kids is an outreach program started by a teacher in Belmont Middle School, N.H. Annually, the school holds a teddy bear picnic to welcome incoming fifth graders, but when the news of the attacks reached Belmont, school parents and officials agreed to send the bears, along with comfort letters written by the school's students, to children directly affected by those events.

So far, Spangdahlem and Bitburg elementary school parents, teachers and students have donated about 150 letters, and new and slightly used bears to the cause.

"I chose to go through the local elementary schools



Each child will receive a bear and a letter.

because I knew the children saw the tragedy on the news," Tovar said. "I want to reassure children in New York that children worldwide feel for them. I hope to show them that the Eifel community cares and for them to know they have help from abroad."

"This is a great project," said Ruth Morgan, Spangdahlem Elementary School principal. "It gives the children the opportunity to express themselves and help others."

Some adults without children also have donated bears to the schools so the students could write a letter to send with it. Tovar also accepts monetary donations to fund shipping costs to the states. So far, people have donated about \$100 for the cause.

People wanting to participate can donate bears, comfort letters or money for shipping at either elementary school office.

Find out more about Bears4Kids by visiting the program Web site at [www.bears4kids.homestead.com](http://www.bears4kids.homestead.com). Visit [www.eaglescout.org](http://www.eaglescout.org) to find out more about the Boy Scout Eagle Scout program.



Jose Tovar, a senior Boy Scout, gathers teddy bears for the Bears4Kids program. Tovar has collected more than 150 bears so far, but hopes to collect 250 more to send to children of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack victims from an elementary school in New York City.

## Briefs

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Teacher's Association invites Spangdahlem Air Base to remember those lost to our nation in the terrorist attacks Sept. 11 by participating in National Wreath of Remembrance Day at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Bitburg Elementary School cafeteria.

National Wreath of Remembrance Day is an opportunity for PTAs, schools and communities across the country to show support for the victim's families by displaying a visible sign of solidarity. Wreaths can be displayed at home, work or school to honor the lives of the victims and symbolize the strength of our nation. For more information, call Pamela Troester at 452-5445.

### Gym closure

The Skelton Memorial Fitness Center on Spangdahlem Air Base closes at 2 p.m. Wednesday for the Operation Season's Greetings concert. It reopens at noon Thursday.

### Operation Warm Heart

Operation Warm Heart is a program sponsored by the 52nd Fighter Wing chaplains and first sergeant's council, aimed at helping out younger families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

First sergeants and chaplains recommend families who can use help with the financial burden that often comes with holiday seasons. The families are offered a check, made payable to the commissary. By giving a little grocery money, hopefully some of their money can be freed up to purchase gifts and make the holidays a little brighter for their children. Last year, \$11,440 was raised for 228 Team Eifel families.

For more information, contact your unit first sergeant.



*(Editor's Note: SPANGDAHLEM under Construction is a periodic update of projects around the base. The goal is to inform people of facility upgrades, road construction, detours and renovations, and how it impacts base employees and residents. 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron members provide the column information.)*

**Project:** Completion of the 52nd Fighter Wing picnic area.

**Location:** Near the Eifel Lanes bowling center.

**Start date:** August

**Completion date:** December

**Current impact:** Upon completion, the site will have two additional pavilions, a covered walkway and more benches. The road leading from the medical facilities to the bowling center remains closed and lighting around the softball field is off until construction is finished.



Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey

The 52nd Fighter Wing picnic area near the Eifel Lanes bowling center is now being renovated. Officials expect the project to be completed in December.



## Community Mailbox

### Spouses meeting

The 52nd Communications Squadron Spouses Group meets at 6:30 tonight in the Spangdahlem Air Base Chapel.

Call Deanne George at 06569-960805 or Patty Hutson at 06553-900331 for details.

### Top 3 meeting

Spangdahlem Air Base's Top 3 meets at 3 p.m. today in the Saber Club. A social follows the meeting. Call Master Sgt. James Rosel at 452-6112 for more information.

### Hummel signing

People who recently purchased Hummel figurines from the local base exchanges and bring the receipts may get them signed by a Goebel artist 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in the Spangdahlem Air Base main exchange. Call 452-7017 for more information.

### New moms

The La Leche League meets at 6:30 p.m. Saturday in the Bitburg Annex hospital conference room. League officials invite new mothers interested in and those currently breastfeeding. Children are welcome. Call Margaret Loffelman at 06565-7555 or Alice DeFoe at 06561-683893 for details.

### Chili cook-off

A Team Eifel Top 3 chili cook-off takes place 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in the Bitburg Annex exchange parking lot. Contest officials award prizes for the hottest but still edible, best tasting and most original chili recipes. Donations for bowls of chili go to the Red Cross Unified America Fund. Contest entry is free.

Call Senior Master Sgt. Dolly Witt at 452-6039, Master Sgts. Tracey Rickey at 452-8375, Andre Mason at 452-6604 or Paul Cole at 452-6367 to register.



Staff Sgt. Karen Z. Silcott

### Turkeys worried for their heads

Third-graders from Spangdahlem Elementary School, dress-up as turkeys, pilgrims and Indians during their recent Thanksgiving play at the Officers' Club on Spangdahlem Air Base.

### Thanksgiving worship service

Worship services take place at 6 p.m. Sunday in the Bitburg Annex Chapel. People are encouraged to bring a dessert for fellowship time after the service. Call the base chapel at 452-6711 for details.

### Youth art contest

The base youth center art contest and display takes place Dec. 3-7. Deadline to enter is Wednesday. Officials judge artwork in four age divisions and 10 art categories. Winning artwork advances to regional competition. Entries are limited to one per person. Call 452-9163 for more information.

### Thanksgiving dinner

The Moselle Dining Halle serves Thanksgiving dinner 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday. The meal is open to active-duty, family members and retirees. Menu includes roast turkey, baked ham, cornbread dressing, assorted vegetables and pies. Call 452-6727 for more information.

### Singers wanted

Wing chapel services needs choir

members for a Christmas concert, taking place at 7 p.m. Dec. 16 in the Bitburg Annex Chapel. Rehearsals take place 6:45-8:45 p.m. each Wednesday through Dec. 12 in the Bitburg Annex Chapel. Call the Spangdahlem Air Base Chapel at 452-6711 for more information.

### Family support

The following classes take place in Bitburg Annex building 2001. Call 452-9491 to register or for more information.

- Resume writing, 8-11 a.m. Tuesday.
- Couples communication, 6-8 p.m. Tuesday.
- European job seekers, noon to 1 p.m. Dec. 3.
- Career profiling, 1-3:30 p.m. Nov. 27.
- Book club, 6-8 p.m. Nov. 27.
- Home buying, 6-8 p.m. Nov. 29.
- Newcomers' Trier by train trip, 7:45 a.m. Nov. 29 at the Bitburg Annex commissary parking lot.

### ITT trips

Information, tickets and tours, and

outdoor recreation offers tours and activities throughout the week. People should register for trips at least three days in advance. Call 452-6567 or 452-9437 for details on ITT trips and outdoor recreation at 452-7176 for details on activities.

### Talent show

King Citadel Military Lodge "Nite at the Apollo" takes place at 7 p.m. Nov. 23 in the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center. Tickets cost \$7. Call Tech. Sgt. Raul Wilshire at 452-6866 for more information.

### Education news

■The DANTES External Degree program offers associate through master degrees through correspondence learning. Review the DANTES catalog on the program Web site at <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/dl/>.

■First-term airmen who enlisted May 5, 2000, or after may qualify for the College Loan Repayment program.

Call the base education office at 452-6063 or visit the office in Spangdahlem Air Base building 131 for more information.

### Flower shop

Spangdahlem Air Base Flower Shop hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday. The shop is closed Sunday. Call 06565-933991 for more information.

### Retiree information

Retiree Activities Office hours are 4-8:30 p.m. each Friday in Spangdahlem Air Base building 23. RAO representatives act as a liaison between active-duty and retired Air Force members. Office officials also seek volunteers. Call retired Tech. Sgt. Gary Hackl at 452-4248 or 452-4020, or e-mail 52FW.RAO@spangdahlem.af.mil for more information.

### Thrift shop

Penny Lane thrift shop hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and each second Wednesday monthly. The shop also opens 3-5 p.m. each Thursday.



# Emergency action wallet cards en route to airmen

By Maj. Mike Young  
U.S. Air Forces in Europe Public Affairs

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE** - Airmen will receive wallet-sized cards from their commanders in the coming weeks that are intended to help them when responding to a chemical or biological attack.

The Air Force chief of staff, in order to ensure the correct response to a possible terrorist use of chemical or biological agents, directed the rapid distribution of a Personal Protection Information Card, said Lt. Gen. Paul K. Carlton, Air Force surgeon general.

"This card describes some basic measures that can be taken to protect individuals in case of exposure to any chemical or biological agent," said Carlton.

However, like cards of similar size and design, you can only provide a limited amount of information, so the cards are not all-inclusive.

"This card is meant to provide the basics," said Bob Jennings, U.S. Air Forces in Europe Civil Engineer spokesman on chemical, biological threats. "The card doesn't cover everything you need to know about these types of threats, but it does provide the essentials for survival."

The card consists of four panels: a front

panel with the words "Emergency Actions To Take for Self Protection Against Potential Biological and Chemical Agent Exposure;" a back panel that describes "After Any BW/CW Incident" actions; and two interior panels — one describing actions to take if "indoors" — the other for an "outdoors" response.

"All of the recommended actions are abbreviated from lesson plans presented to airmen during their annual chemical and biological warfare training classes," said Jennings, "and will seem like a brief review to most airmen."

For example, the back panel focuses on those three steps taught during the class, listen, decontaminate, and seek care, all of which occur after any CW/BW incident.

"You must keep calm and listen to the radio or TV so you can receive any official news updates," said Jennings, "and stay indoors until you've been given the 'all clear' by the media or public safety officials."

The next step is to avoid exposure and decontaminate yourself, if necessary, by removing and safely controlling affected clothing and washing all exposed skin with soap and water.

"The final step," said Jennings, "is to seek medical care if you were exposed and

inform health officials that you may be contaminated."

The inside content of the card lists ways to limit or even prevent exposure.

"The first step here," said Lt. Col. Fred Kelsey, USAFE medical spokesman, "is to apply breathing protection, either with a protective mask or by covering the nose and mouth with a cloth."

"With the recent anthrax exposures in the United States, some people may feel the need to buy a protective mask, but before you purchase a mask, ensure it has at least an N95 rating. This is the minimum rating required to protect against aerosolized particles such as anthrax."

Be careful not to confuse the N95-type masks with the disposable comfort masks used to protect against nuisance-dust, pollens and common house hold dust. Dust masks are not designed to protect against chemical and biological threats.

After applying breathing protection, the next step is to move to the highest level, but that's only if you're indoors.

"We all learned to go low when in a fire situation to avoid the rising smoke, but since most hazardous chemical gases are heavier than air, going to the highest point is your best bet," said Kelsey.

If you're outdoors, you should move laterally and upwind, away from any smoke or aerosol cloud.

"Your final protective step is to secure your shelter," said Jennings. "If indoors, turn off all electrical appliances, fans, air conditioners, furnaces, and seal all windows, doors, vents and fireplaces with duct tape, masking tape, or even a wet towel."

**This card doesn't cover everything you need to know about these types of threats, but it does provide the essentials for survival.**

Bob Jennings,  
U.S. Air Forces in Europe  
Civil Engineer spokesman



Tech. Sgt. Jim Varheggi

**Air Force leaders plan to distribute an informational pocket card, like the one pictured above, Air Force-wide to inform people about actions to take after biological and chemical attacks.**

If outdoors, you should seek shelter immediately. If caught in a vehicle, stop the vehicle, close windows and vents, and turn off the air conditioner or heater.

Wherever you are, avoid all sources of open flame.

"In the end," said Kelsey, "we just want people to be constantly vigilant, aware of their surroundings and to always remain calm."

"This card doesn't provide a lot of detail, but it does give the cardholders the essential information, that when heeded, will significantly increase their chances of surviving a chemical or biological exposure."

## At Your SERVICE

### SPANGDAHLEM

#### Chapel

- Catholic Mass: 11:45 a.m. Wednesday-Friday; 5 p.m. Saturday; and 9:30 a.m. Sunday
- Confessions, 4 p.m. Saturday or by appointment
- Catholic religious education, 11 a.m. Sunday
- Protestant Sunday worship: 11:15 a.m.
- Protestant Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.
- Korean worship, 1 p.m. Sunday

#### Commissary

- Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Saturday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

#### Main exchange

- Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

### Child development center

- Monday-Saturday, 6 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

#### BXtra (shoppette)

- Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

#### Gas station

- Monday-Saturday, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Sunday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

#### Outdoor recreation

- Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

#### Airmen's Attic

- Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

#### Bowling center

- Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-midnight
- Sunday, noon-9 p.m.

### BITBURG ANNEX

#### Chapel

- Catholic Mass: 9:15 a.m. Tuesday and 11:30 a.m. Sunday
- Catholic religious education: 9:45 a.m. Sunday
- Confessions, 10:45 a.m. Sunday
- Protestant Sunday worship: 8:15 a.m. liturgical; 9:35 a.m. contemporary; and 1 p.m. Gospel
- Protestant Sunday school: 11:30 a.m.

#### Child development center

- Monday-Saturday, 6 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

#### Commissary

- Monday, closed
- Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

#### Shoppette

- Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

### Furniture store

- Monday, closed
- Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

#### Main exchange

- Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

#### Gas station

- Monday-Saturday, 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Sunday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

#### Car care center

- Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Sunday, closed

#### Airmen's Attic

- Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

### Oberwolsch Annex

#### Pet spa

- Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Editorial Staff

Col. Greg Ihde.....Commander  
Capt. Angela Johnson.....Chief, Public Affairs  
Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero.....Internal Information  
Staff Sgt. Cindy York.....Editor

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Col. Greg Ihde

Accessing Direct Line

The Direct Line program is a way to get answers to questions you still have after using your chain of command.

Direct Lines of general interest will be published in the *Eifel Times* and may be edited or paraphrased for brevity or clarity. Submit your Direct Line via:

- [DirectLine@spangdahlem.af.mil](mailto:DirectLine@spangdahlem.af.mil)
- Mailed to 52nd FW/PA, Unit 3680 Box 220, APO AE 09126
- To public affairs in building 23.
- Concerns may also be sent via fax to 452-5254.

Anonymous inputs are accepted. To receive a personal response you must include your name and phone number. Call the *Eifel Times* at 452-5244 for more information.

Number of days  
since last DUI:

As of Thursday

5

You have a choice.  
Call Airmen Against  
Drunk Driving  
at 452-2233.

# Viewpoint

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Nov. 16, 2001

## Holiday messages

By Gen. Gregory Martin  
U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander

Like many of our ancestors, the Pilgrims who celebrated the first Thanksgiving in 1621 were ordinary people who came to America willing to risk all for freedom and the opportunity for a better way of life. Their perseverance in pursuit of a principle stands today as a fitting reminder of the sacrifice our forefathers endured during the years in the name of liberty.

Thanksgiving is truly an American tradition -- a time for families and friends to gather and celebrate the blessings we enjoy as a free nation.

As we gather this year, join me by taking a moment to remember our fellow airmen who, in service to our nation, will spend yet another holiday away from loved ones, and pray for their safe return.

As I count my blessings this year, I give thanks for all the members of our great U.S. Air Force in Europe team -- active duty, Guard, Reserve, civilian and family members -- and I salute you for your professionalism and dedication during very challenging times. Wendy and I wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

By Maj. Gen. Kenneth W. Hess  
3rd Air Force commander

Thanksgiving is a day to celebrate the many blessings we enjoy as citizens of the United States of America. As long as there is an America, there will be freedom. As long as we stand together, there will be hope. As long as our resolve remains strong, so will our way of life.

Our search for normalcy following the Sept. 11 attacks has brought many changes, not the least of which is a rebirth of patriotism. Even now, as we are involved in a war against terrorism, we should all take a moment to reflect on the true meaning of Thanksgiving, and of the freedoms the people of our nation have fought to maintain since its birth.

While active-duty, Guard and Reserve members are indeed standing proud in their uniforms, we must not forget how crucial our civilian employees and family members are to our success. Our Department of Defense and host nation civilian employees offer unparalleled expertise and continuity. Our families serve as our foundations of strength, selflessness and support. Even though Thanksgiving is an American holiday, we should remember that it celebrates overcoming adversity by working together. Though September's attacks struck in New York, the reverberations were felt around the world. People from almost every country were affected, whether directly or indirectly, and the leaders of many of these countries subsequently pledged to help America in our fight to prevent future terrorist attacks.

I have seen tireless support of our troops and their families from our friends and neighbors throughout the United Kingdom, Germany and the rest of Europe. This unity has been an immeasurable source of strength during difficult times.

This Thanksgiving, my wife Deb and I are extremely thankful that we have a strong 3rd Air Force team who continues to perform magnificently. We are absolutely thrilled knowing that our civilian, active-duty, family, Reserve and Guard members of all services, as well as our allies around the world, are working hard to support and protect one another. God Bless and have a safe and happy holiday!

By Col. Greg Ihde  
52nd Fighter Wing commander

Americans traditionally view Thanksgiving as a day to gather with family and friends, eat a meal together and reflect on our many blessings.

This year is again a time to give thanks, but it is also a time to remember those who lost loved ones on Sept. 11. Today, our great nation faces a new type of crisis, and our country again looks to America's sons and daughters in uniform for hope, confidence and reassurance.

As military and family members, we know the rights and freedoms Americans enjoy daily are a direct result of the efforts and sacrifices of members in our military community, both here and around the world. This holiday season, members of Team Eifel will again deploy to protect those rights and freedoms. I look to the 52nd Fighter Wing "family" to watch after one another and support both the members deployed and their families left behind.

Please remember, there is much to be thankful for as Americans, and I ask you to pause and take a moment to thank the Creator for his rich blessings. I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for protecting and preserving America's freedom. You are the best.

Sally and I wish all of you a very happy Thanksgiving and an enjoyable, well-deserved family day.

## Letter to the editor

By Erin Rogers  
Eifel Holiday Bazaar committee

Dec. 7, 1941. Sept. 11, 2001. Now, two days that will live in infamy.

As Americans, we revel in the freedoms and liberties that are an inherent part of our United States' citizenship. But on that fateful September day, we were given a somber reminder that freedom isn't free. We watched our television sets in horror as the aftermath unfolded of the commercial airliners, turned into weapons of indiscriminate destruction, that were intentionally piloted by unconscionable terrorists into the Pentagon and the World Trade Center towers. We read the news of random cases of anthrax exposure on the East Coast and the fear that sweeps America. We sent our husbands and our wives, our brothers and our sisters, and, in some cases, our sons and our daughters, off to war.

After the terrorist attacks, my family and I flew to Virginia, unfortunately, on emergency leave. What we were greeted with warmed my heart and reminded me how proud I am to be an American -- flags. Flags everywhere. American flags. On cars. On businesses. On homes. A cynic might say that it shouldn't have taken a terrorist attack on American soil to

make us show our patriotism. The truth is that patriotism and being an American citizen go hand-in-hand. We show our patriotism in more subtle ways -- in our businesses and industries, with our foreign and domestic policies, in our educational system and our scientific community, in our technology and research, in the sports we watch and play, even in the clothes we wear. If we were a nation living in fear, then we would be too cowardly to boldly display our flags. Our flags tell the world - We ARE proud to be Americans!

After the attacks, President George W. Bush encouraged Americans to get back to work, to get on with their lives. With this in mind, the members of the Officers and Civilians Spouses Club thought long and hard about whether holding the annual Eifel Holiday Bazaar was the right thing to do. We debated. We argued. We cajoled. But, in the end, we decided to listen to President Bush and that this event is so important to the community that, if we were given authorization from Col. Greg Ihde and higher headquarters to proceed, we unhesitatingly would.

Why? Why, with world events the way they are, would we hold a bazaar? The bazaar is an opportunity for many people to forget, for a

few precious minutes, the dire state of world affairs. Vendors come to Spangdahlem Air Base from across Europe, giving many people the opportunity to purchase wonderful gifts and mementos that they might not have the opportunity to buy. The proceeds from the bazaar are put back into the Eifel community -- in the form of scholarships, donations and contributions. The festive atmosphere, wonderful wares and delicious foods are reminders of home and the upcoming holiday season.

But the bazaar would not have been possible without the many volunteers from across the community that dedicated hundreds of hours to make the bazaar an overwhelming success. You truly represent what is best about an American.

We do what others cannot do. We work together as one and we come together when we are needed the most and we leave behind success. Thank you, each and every volunteer. This was truly a base-wide function.

Your gifts of time, effort and resources were invaluable to us. Because of your generosity, we raised more than \$133,000, which will be distributed back to the community in various forms. Thanks again for proving that giving does begin at home.

## Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. More movie synopsis information is available at:  
[www.aafes.com/europe/eur\\_mov/snop.htm](http://www.aafes.com/europe/eur_mov/snop.htm)

### Bitburg Castle

Today

**The Last Castle (R) - Robert Redford, James Gandolfini**

A three-star general wrongly court-martialed and sentenced to a military maximum-security prison rallies the 1,200 inmates to revolt against the corrupt warden and his guards.

Saturday

**The Last Castle**

Sunday

**Rat Race (PG-13) - Whoopi Goldberg, John Cleese**

In Las Vegas, six people participate in a human rat race. Two million dollars is in a duffel bag in a locker in Silver City, N.M. - 700 miles away. The first one there keeps it all. What they don't know is that their every move is being tracked by gambling-crazed high rollers who are betting on the outcome.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

**Captain Corelli's Mandolin (R) - Nicolas Cage, Penelope Cruz**

In 1941 during World War II and the Italian occupation of Greece, a love begins uneasily between Italian Captain Corelli and Greek villager Pelagia. The violent realities of war threaten the tender connection that has grown between Antonio and Pelagia.

Thursday

**Rat Race**

### Spangdahlem Skyline

Today

**The Musketeer (PG-13) - Justin Chambers, Catherine Deneuve**

D'Artagnan and his fellow Musketeers are poised for battle. These legendary men of action are sworn to fight duels and right wrongs. The Musketeers are not only defy the powers that be in 17th century France, they also defy gravity.

**Riding in Cars with Boys (9:30 p.m., PG-13) - Drew Barrymore, Steve Zahn**  
A single mother, with dreams of becoming a writer, has a son at the age of 15 in 1968, and goes through a failed marriage with the drug-addicted father.

Saturday

**Riding in Cars with Boys**

**Rock Star (9:30 p.m., R) - Mark Wahlberg, Jennifer Aniston**

Based on a true story, an office supplies salesman moonlights as a musician in a tribute band. His life is changed forever when he is chosen out of the blue to replace the lead singer of his all-time favorite band, Steel Dragon.

Sunday

**The Musketeer**

Monday

**Riding in Cars with Boys**

Tuesday

**Rock Star**

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.  
For the most current information,  
call 452-9441.

# 2001 wine promises excellent crop

## Sunny October means riper grapes for Eifel region vineyards; quality compared to best years

By Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

This time of year, people can see tractors with farmland equipment parked along the Mosel River in the vineyards. Hundreds of hard-working people from the Moselland area are as busy as ever harvesting what is known as the "Moselland gold." Climbing up and down the steep hills, they ensure they harvest all the grapes, making sure not to miss any.

Each year people wonder what that year's wine will be like -- this year should please wine lovers.

"The 2001 crop will make an excellent wine," said a local local vintner from Bernkastel. "The harvest of the first crop is in full swing and with a golden October - which means that weather remained mostly nice - the Spätlese, Auslese and Kabinett wines will be good with a riper grape."

He said it looks like the quality of this year's wines will be close to those of 1971, which many have said to be an excellent wine year.

### Wine quality

What makes a good wine? Along with the soil, climate and landscape, harvesting practices for grapes at various degrees or ripeness determines the character of the wine. Grapes also need the right amount of sun and rain to ripen.

Germany has nearly 100,000 hectares, or 240,000 acres, of vineyards. About 88 percent of this area is planted with white grapes and 12 percent with red grapes.

Luckily for those who appreciate wine, Spangdahlem Air Base is at the doorstep of a delightful wine region, where some of the finest white wines, which are sweet and fruity, originate.

The wine growing area of this region has more than 25,000 acres - 75 percent of which is covered with Riesling vines. The rest are cultivated with Mueller-Thurgau, Elbling and other varieties of grapes. The average annual yield from this area is about 22 million gallons of wine.

The vast area from Trier to Koblenz, where the Mosel joins the Rhine, has too many wine-growing villages to mention. Each town and village has some fine vineyards, many with a worldwide reputation for top quality wines.

### Harvesting times

For earlier grapes, such as the Mueller-Thurgau or Elbling, the Weinlese, or grape harvest, usually begins in September. Grapes needing a little longer to ripen, such as those of the popular Riesling vines, are normally harvested from mid-October until mid-November.

But, with a cool September and sunny October, local vintners decided to delay the harvesting this year. Because of this, the vintner said the wine will be excellent, though there will be a lower quantity.

Starting times for the harvest in a geographic area are always decided by the local government. Then, it's up to a commission of wine growers within that area to determine individual harvesting times, which may vary from village to village.

### Mosel wines

Mosel wines are characterized by their fine bouquets, golden color and typical aromatic elegant piquant taste. Some Mosel wines are robust and lively with high acidity; others are stimulating with a fruity taste and there are also light wines.

Although Mosel wines have a common basic character, they differ from village to village, and vineyard to vineyard, depending on the soil.

Famous names include Wehlen, Bernkastel, Uerzig, Zeltingen, Piesport, Graach and Trittenheim. Wines from the Saar and the Ruwer resemble those of the Mosel family.

A distinctive product of this region is wine from the Riesling vine. Riesling juice is concentrated and produces a full and rich wine taste. Because of this, wines made from Riesling vines are more expensive.



File photo by Iris Reiff

**Capt. Neil Oakden, 23rd Fighter Squadron, helps with the wine harvest in Trittenheim.**

Wines are divided into quality categories. They're continually controlled and must pass a critical examination before they can be sold.

Quality wines with special attributes are top wines and bear a special name or domination, exactly defined by law.

Since 1971, the label indicates clearly the quality category. Denominations and their characteristics are:

**Kabinett:** The elegant nature wine harvested during the general vintage time, usually October.

**Spätlese:** Wine made from grapes picked after the completion of the normal harvest, giving special bouquet and fruitiness.

**Auslese:** The ripest bunches of grapes are individually selected, picked and pressed. These grapes produce noble wines for great occasions.

**Beerenauslese:** Wine, made from overripe but sound berries selected from each bunch of grapes.

**Trockenbeerenauslese:** The most precious wine made from a special selection of overripe raisin-like grapes. This is considered the richest, sweetest and finest wine.

**Eiswein:** Ice wine is made from vintage grapes harvested in a special way. The wine is made from grapes picked and pressed while frozen.

Consequently, the pressing produces highly concentrated sugar-to-water content, retaining the frozen water as ice particles with the husks of grapes. Eiswein is a fascinating wine because of its very special character.

The region where the grapes are grown is an important detail to keep in mind. In the case of Mosel wines, labels read "Mosel-Saar-Ruwer," indicating the grapes were grown on the Mosel or in the smaller side valley regions of the Saar and Ruwer Rivers, where the Riesling wine flourishes.

If the word "Natur" appears on the label, it indicates no sugar was added to the wine.

Also, the bottle corks must be kept moist and airtight. For this reason, wine should be stored horizontally.